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General Assembly

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Seventy-third session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee)

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Note by the Secretariat

The attention of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) is drawn to the following provisions of General Assembly resolution 72/313, as highlighted in the first report of the General Committee (A/73/250), which was considered by the Assembly at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018:

(a) Paragraph 20 of the resolution, in which the General Assembly reaffirmed existing relevant mandates related to the improvement of the working methods of the Main Committees, including section C of the annex to resolution 58/316, paragraphs 7 to 13 of resolution 59/313, cluster III of the annex to resolution 60/286 and resolution 69/321, in particular paragraphs 16 and 17 thereof (see A/73/250, para. 13);

(b) Paragraph 22 of the resolution, in which the Assembly requested each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session, and invited the Chairs of the Main Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly during the seventy-third session on any best practices and lessons learned (ibid., para. 15);

(c) The relevant provision contained in the annex to resolution 72/313 on the pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees of the seventy-fourth to the eighty-third sessions of the General Assembly (ibid., para. 19);

(d) Paragraph 33 of resolution 72/313, in which the Assembly recalled rules 153 and 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and encouraged the Chairs of the Main Committees and the Secretary-General to ensure observance of those rules, within their respective mandates (ibid., para. 71);

(e) Paragraph 44 of resolution 72/313, in which the Assembly reiterated its invitation to the President of the General Assembly and the Chairs of the Main Committees, in consultation with the General Committee and Member States, as well as to the Secretary-General, to enhance the coordination of the scheduling of the meetings of the Assembly, including high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates, with a view to optimizing their interactivity, effectiveness and distribution throughout the session, and to consider ways to decrease the number of high-level events held during the general debate (ibid., para. 30);

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(f) Paragraph 50 of resolution 72/313, in which the Assembly encouraged Member States to seek gender balance in the distribution of Chairs and bureau members of the Main Committees (ibid., para. 20);

(g) Paragraph 54 of resolution 72/313, in which the Assembly encouraged Member States to make, to the extent possible, full use of e-services provided by the Secretariat, in order to save costs, reduce the environmental impact and improve the distribution of documents, and in that regard requested the Secretariat to further improve, harmonize and, where appropriate, unify such services, under eDelegate, including the continuation of the practice of making available all official correspondence of the United Nations addressed to the Members States (ibid., para. 63).